



BIOGRAPHY OF HENRY CLUFF
OF PROVO, UTAH
WHO CAME TO PROVO IN 1850

COMPILED BY EVALYN CLUFF McDONALD
Daughter,

A member of the A. O. Smoot Camp No. 1,
Daughters of Utah Pioneers of Utah
County

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Given to Dr Green by Sean Hardman

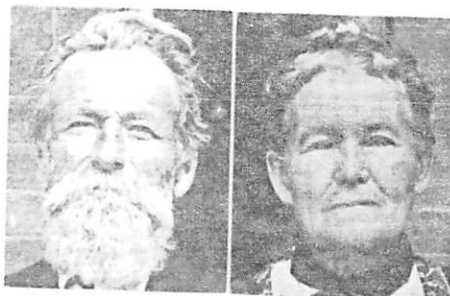
Grandma Goodman picture used

HENRY AND KEZIA
ELIZABETH RUSSELL CLUFF

Henry Cluff, the 10th child of David and Betsey or Elizabeth Hall Cluff, was born 15 Feb. 1843 in Nauvoo, Hancock Co., Illinois. Henry was four years old when his family was driven from Nauvoo but he vividly remembered the persecution of the Saints. He moved west with his parents and as a youth remembered the travels and hardships experienced by the family and

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the Saints. In the fall of 1850 the family came to Utah, settling in Provo. In 1862 he learned the cabinet trade with his brothers. In 1864 he went back to Missouri for immigrants. He took an active part in the Black Hawk War and later Indian troubles which occurred in the early settlement of Utah. On 9 Nov. 1865 at the early age of 22 he married Kezia Elizabeth Russell. In 1871 he moved to the Cluff's ranch near Keetley. He gave his attention to farming and stock-raising. He and his brother Joseph made

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Henry Cluff, the subject of this Biography was born in Nauvoo, Ill., Feb. 15th, 1843, the ninth in a family of twelve sons and one daughter. He was the son of David Cluff, who was born June 20, 1795, in Nottingham, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, U. S., and Betsy R. Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Moses and Lucy Hall of Canada. From this marriage there was an issue of Twelve Sons and one daughter. Lavina, the oldest, was born at Shipton Canada, Oct. 17, 1824; David was born July 29, 1826, at Durham, New Hampshire; Moses was born at Durham, N. H. Feb. 11, 1828; Benjamin was born in Durham, Mar. 20th, 1830, William W. in Mar. 8th, 1832, in Willoughby, Ohio, Joseph in Willoughby, Jan. 11, 1834; Harvey H. was born in Kirtland, Ohio, Jan. 9, 1836, Samuel S. in Kirtland, Ohio, Sept, 1837, Hyrum in Nauvoo, Ill., April 19, 1841, Henry in Nauvoo, Ill., Feb. 15th, 1843, Alfred in Nauvoo, Ill., Nov. 1, 1844, Orson at Pisgah, Iowa, Aug. 1847, Jerry was born at Provo, Utah, April 20th, 1856

Altho Father Cluff was but four years of age when his parents with the main body of the Latter Day Saints were driven from their homes in Nauvoo they had helped to make beautiful, he has a vivid recollection of hardships the members of the Church underwent before leaving for Utah. Among those recollections and one that imprints itself indelibly in his memory was the martyrdom of the prophet Joseph Smith and his brother Hyrum. Due to his large family for whom he had to provide and the lack of means grand-father Cluff did not arrive in Utah with the main body of Saints. Pisga, Iowa, was the first stopping place of the family, Council Bluffs was the next reached, Cartersville, on Mosquito Creek, was their next. In each of these

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places they built homes, planted and harvested crops and recruited themselves so they could continue their journey on to Utah. The family of Cluffa and Hyrum Sweat, who married the only daughter, arrived at Salt Lake on the 3rd day of October, 1850 with Bishop Hunter's Company. Their stay was of brief duration in Salt Lake City, they moved to Provo where they built a home inside of the New Fort. They lived here until the trouble with Indians had subsided a little, ^{and} Father Cluff being one of the first families to move out of the Fort. In order to keep his large family employed he took up many acres of land at the base of Temple Hill, about a mile east of the Fort. Henry and three of his brothers then took up cabinet work which they did at spare times. In 1864 ~~Father~~ was called to go back to the Missouri River to bring emigrants. He left Provo on the 26th of April in company with John R. Twelves, Benjamin Haws, Zenos Pratt, Joseph Beesely, Oscar Wilkins and William Brown of Provo, they each drove two yolk of oxen or wild steers. This journey would make a history of itself. ^{at} On one of their camping grounds while they were looking around they were horrified at the terrible spectacle which met their gaze. There among the brush lay skeletons of men, women and children who had been slain by the merciless indians supposed to be the victims of the Rabbit Massacre which had occurred some time previously. The company reached the Missouri River in safety without encountering the hostile indians. The amigrants whom they expected to convey to Utah were camped at Wyoming, a station on the bank of the river. After recuperating the teams a few days they loaded provisions, and men, women, and children in the wagons and the homeward jour

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ney commenced. The emigrant train consisted of 63 wagons with a teamster and four yolk of oxen to each wagon and about six hundred emigrants. Joseph R. Rawlins of Draper, Utah, was chief captain. They were five months making this trip.

On his return home father courted and married a young English girl by the name of Kezzia E. Russell, daughter of Richard and Hannah Underhill Russell. She was born Jan. 12, 1844, in Tedburry, Gloucestershire, England, who had crossed the plains in the company preceding the Joseph R. Rawlins Company. She buried her father on the plains near Pole Creek near the Missouri River, her mother having died just previous to their leaving England, she was left to continue the journey with her four sisters and one brother. She and father were married on the 9th of November, 1865, in Provo, Joseph W. Flemming officiated, they were later sealed together in the endowment House at Salt Lake City. They built a little home on 3rd North and 3rd East in Provo and the house is still standing. Three of their children were born in this house.

Father, like most of his brothers aspired to the stage and he impersonated many unique characters in early day dramas, his first effort being John Mormon in a play entitled "Missouri persecutions" The performance was given in "Bell's Folly", so called because the people thought it folly for Mr. Bell to build an amusement hall so far away from the settlement, the Hall being located at 6th west and 1st north street. In 1860 Cluff's Hall was built and served as the principle playhouse of the city for some time, this hall was built by the Cluff brothers. I have heard father say that at the time they commenced building this hall the cluff brothers could not have raised \$25.00 between them.

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In 1865 and 1867 the Blackhawk War broke out. Father Cluff served as lieutenant in Company C. He also aided in building a twelve foot cobble rock wall around the block between University Avenue, first east and center and First north streets, this he says, accounts for the great number of cobble rocks scattered around the surface of that block. The wall was built for protection of the settlers when it was announced that Johnson's army was coming to Utah.

In 1872 the Cluff brothers, including father, having taken up several hundred acres of land in wasatch County moved there and in 1873 the other boys getting tired of the long cold winters sold their shares in the ranch to father where he and mother resided many years. The first few years their struggles were many. Mother bore eight children at this ranch with only the care of a midwife. At the organization of the Elkhorn branch of the Latter Day Saint Church in 1878, Father was called and set apart as the presiding Elder. He served two terms as Justice of the Peace in the Elkhorn District. In 1899 the Elkhorn Branch was promoted to a Ward. Father was ordained a Bishop under the hands of Apostle Francis M. Lyman and Abraham Hatch, President of the Wasatch Stake of Zion at that time. In 1900 Father was elected County Commissioner of Wasatch County on the Democrat ticket. For seventeen years he acted as school trustee and served as musical director in Elkhorn. He was also Superintendant of the Sunday School in his Ward from 1872 to 1878 inclusive.

In 1900 father, mother and the children ^{still} remaining with them moved back to Provo where he built a home at fifth East and 240 North.

Father and mother lived happy, useful lives. They were the parents of eleven children, nine of whom are still living as follows:

- Ada Lenora Moulton, Springville.
- Lillie M. Hardman, Woodland, Utah.
- Henry Russell, Heber City, Utah.
- Evalyn McDonald, Provo, Utah.
- Charles Richard, Provo, Utah.
- Nellie Woolstenhulme, Victor, Idaho.
- William David Cluff, Provo, Utah.
- Hyrum Frederick, Ocean Park, Cali.
- John R., Victor, Idaho.

Father, like most of his ancestors lived to be a good old age. At his death January 16, 1931, he only lacked a few days of being 88 years old.

At his death he was living in the Fifty Ward at Provo and his services were held in the ward chapel where bishop W. O. Facer presided. Glowing tributes to the exemplary life and character of father were paid by the following speakers: Patriarch J. B. Keeler, Dr. Amos N. Merrill and Mr. Jos. Mecham. His favorite song "Oh my Father" was rendered by a male quartet. Bishop Albert Mabey pronounced benediction and the grave at the Provo Cemetery was dedicated by Thaddeus Cluff.

Mother preceded father in death sixteen years, they both having died on the 16th of January.

Father and most of his brothers took a great interest in genealogy, their ancestors are now traced in a direct descent twelve generations. A John Clough who came to America from London, England, in the ship Elizabeth, in 1685, was the first to come to America. He was born in 1613. Scarcely any ancestor so far traced has died under 80 years of age.

Father's 12 brothers all but David lived to be over 85, and they died in rotation as they were born.

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